

To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: Orange County Public Schools, Florida
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06
Date: September 17, 2008

Orange County Public Schools lends its strong support to the proposed addition of “telephone broadcast messaging” to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries (“E-rate”) program.

Our district has used such a system for more than two years for these purposes:

- Multilingual emergency notification to parents of 177,000 students and 21,000 employees regarding school closures due to tropical storms and hurricanes.
- Student absence information.
- Notification of Supplemental Educational Services to eligible students required by the No Child Left Behind federal legislation.
- Outreach messages from schools, notifying parents of upcoming important events and reminders.

Our telephone notification system allowed us to send 34,876 distinct messages during school year 2007-08, including attendance, informational, outreach and emergency calls. This type of notification is efficient and accurate, because it is immediate, and it saves thousands of dollars in printing costs. The telephone notification system is a prime example of a technology that should be included within the E-rate program’s eligible list of services.